

*Application No. 09/970458*  
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*Amendment*  
*Attorney Docket No. S63.2R-9396-US02*

**Amendments To The Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A stent delivery system comprising:
  - a stent delivery catheter, the stent delivery catheter having a stent mounting region, the stent mounting region having an inflatable portion;
  - a stent disposed about the stent mounting region, the stent having an unexpanded position and an expanded position;
  - a first stent retaining sleeve having first and second ends, the first end being attached to the stent delivery catheter, the first stent retaining sleeve disposed about at least a portion of the stent in the unexpanded position, the first stent retaining sleeve being constructed and arranged to retract toward the attached first end when the stent is expanded, thereby shortening the distance between the first and second ends of the first stent retaining sleeve; and
  - a second stent retaining sleeve having first and second ends, wherein the second stent retaining sleeve is opposingly situated to the first stent retaining sleeve, the first end being attached to the stent delivery catheter, the second stent retaining sleeve disposed about at least a portion of the stent in the unexpanded position, the second stent retaining sleeve being constructed and arranged to retract toward the attached first end when the stent is expanded, thereby shortening the distance between the first and second ends of the second stent retaining sleeve,

wherein the first and second stent retaining sleeves cover substantially the entire stent in the unexpanded position.
2. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the first and second stent retaining sleeves are ribbed.
3. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the first and second stent retaining sleeves are pleated.
4. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the first and second stent retaining sleeves have a plurality of openings.
5. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the first and second stent retaining sleeves are each comprised of at least two materials.

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6. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 5 wherein the first and second stent retaining sleeves are each comprised of alternating strips of the at least two materials.
7. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the first end of the first stent retaining sleeve is attached proximally of the stent and the first end of the second stent retaining sleeve is attached distally of the stent.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein the second ends of the first and second stent retaining sleeves overlap.
11. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1, wherein the first ends of the stent retaining sleeves are fixed relative to one another.
12. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 11, the stent retaining sleeves each having an inner surface, said inner surface being in contact with the stent, and an outer surface, said outer surface being uncovered and exposed, wherein, for each of the stent retaining sleeves, a plurality of points on the outer surfaces are fixed relative to a plurality of corresponding points on the inner surfaces.
13. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the stent retaining sleeves is ribbed.
14. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the stent retaining sleeves is pleated.
15. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the stent retaining sleeves has a plurality of openings.
16. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the stent retaining sleeves is comprised of at least two materials.
17. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 5 wherein at least one of the stent retaining sleeves is comprised of alternating strips of the at least two materials.
18. (Previously presented) The stent delivery system of claim 1, wherein the first stent retaining sleeve is in contact with the second stent retaining sleeve when the stent is collapsed.

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